



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/815,854

04/02/2004

Ronald Alexander Young

3011-1005

9888

466 7590 01/18/2007
YOUNG & THOMPSON
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET
2ND FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

KARLS, SHAY LYNN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1744

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

01/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

✓

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/815,854

Applicant(s)

YOUNG, RONALD ALEXANDER

Examiner

Shay L. Karls

Art Unit

1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,8,9 and 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,8,9 and 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11, 14-15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Young (PGPub 2004/0255417).

With regards to claim 1, Young teaches a mop head comprising a holder (15), a flexible absorbent mop (11) held by the holder, and a cleaning implement (12, 13, 14) which is independent of the mop and is disengageably attachable to the holder adjacent the outside of the mop. The holder comprises an inverted channel in which the mop material is held (figure 3, shows that the holder is hollow and the hollow portion receives the mop). There is an elongated recess (figure 3 shows two recesses, not labeled but shown as the portion which element 17 is extending from and into), which extends along a major portion of the longitudinal extent of the channel, the cleaning implement being receivable in the recess.

With regards to claim 6, the cleaning implement is positionable on an edge of the holder (figure 3).

With regards to claim 8, the cleaning implement is releasably attached to the holder by a retaining mechanism (17; [0014]).

With regards to claim 9, the cleaning implement is an abrasive pad ([0008]).

With regards to claim 11, the retaining mechanism includes a channel element (apertures in the top of the implement in figure 2; [0014]) by which the cleaning implement is push-fit engageable with the holder.

With regards to claim 14, the retaining mechanism includes a catch element (17) on the holder to engage the channel on the implement (figure 3).

With regards to claim 15, the mop is a bundle of flexible strands ([0010]).

With regards to claim 20, the mop head is used on a mop ([0009]).

Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 11-14, 16-17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Laux et al. (USPN 6336240).

With regards to claim 1, Laux teaches a mop head comprising a holder (12), a flexible absorbent mop (26) held by the holder, and a cleaning implement (48) which is independent of the mop and is disengageably attachable to the holder adjacent the outside of the mop. The holder comprises an inverted channel in which the mop material is held (figure 2 shows that the holder is essentially a hollow square shape wherein the hollow portion receives the mop). There is an elongated recess (figure 2 shows two recesses located on the sides of element 18; the recesses are shown as reference number 58), which extends along a major portion of the longitudinal extent of the channel, the cleaning implement being receivable in the recess.

With regards to claim 6, the cleaning implement is positionable on an edge of the holder (figures 1 and 2).

With regards to claim 8, the cleaning implement is releasably attached to the holder by a retaining mechanism (54, 56, 70, 72, 78, 80).

With regards to claim 9, the cleaning implement is an abrasive pad (col. 3, lines 20-21) or brush (84).

Art Unit: 1744

With regards to claim 11, the retaining mechanism includes a channel element (not labeled but located between elements 78 and 52, 80 and 52 in figure 2) by which the cleaning implement is push-fit engageable with the holder (see figure below).

With regards to claim 12, the retaining mechanism further includes a shoulder (78, 80) formed in the channel element.

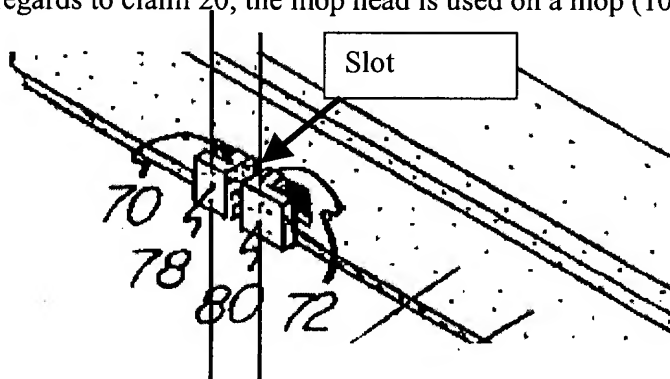
With regards to claim 13, the retaining mechanism further includes a slot (not labeled but located between elements 78 and 80 on figure 2) (see figure below).

With regards to claim 14, the retaining mechanism includes a catch element (58, 60, 74, 76) on the holder to engage the channel on the implement (figure 2).

With regards to claim 16, the mop is a sheet of flexible absorbent material (col. 2, lines 49-55).

With regards to claim 17, the mop head is used in combination with a wringer (28).

With regards to claim 20, the mop head is used on a mop (10).



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young ('417) in view of Morad et al. (USPN 6115877).

Young teaches all the essential elements of the claimed invention however fails to teach using the mop head in combination with a cleaning liquid container (claim 18) and a wringer (claim 19). Morad teaches bucket (12) for holding various liquid agents (col. 2, lines 18-22). The bucket also comprises a wringer (14). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the mop of Young in combination with the bucket and mop wringer of Morad. Figure 1 of Morad teaches using the bucket and wringer for the same type of mop as taught by Young. Therefore, the bucket and wringer of Morad would assist in removing excess liquid from the mop of Young as well as having a location for the dirty liquid as well as the clean liquid, thus making it easier to clean a surface.

Response to Arguments

The double patenting rejections with respect to copending applications 11/362108 and 10/463262 have been withdrawn. 11/362108 is withdrawn because the present amendment separates the claims of the present invention from the claims in the copending application '108. 10/463262 is withdrawn because the application has been abandoned.

Applicant's arguments, filed 10/26/06, with respect to Hofte et al. and Lewis have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of Hofte and Lewis have been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed 10/26/06, with respect to Young and Laux et al. have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Young fails to teach a holder with an inverted channel in which the mop material is held and an elongated recesses which extends along a major portion of the longitudinal extent of the channel. The holder of Young is a hollow member with an open bottom portion (figure 3). The mop head fits within the hollow portion of the holder. The hollow portion reads on the claim limitation of an inverted channel. There are no claim limitations further describing the channel (e.g. shape, size) and therefore, any type of channel reads on the claim. The holder further comprises recesses (portion surrounding element 17) in which the cleaning implement is received. There are clip members (17), which extend into the recess to secure the cleaning implement once it is located within the recess. There are two recesses shown in figure 3 along the longitudinal extent of the channel. The longitudinal extent of the channel is along the longitudinal axis of the holder.

The applicant additionally argues that Laux fails to teach a holder with an inverted channel in which the mop is held and an elongated recess which extends along a major portion of

Art Unit: 1744

the longitudinal extent of the channel. Laux teaches that the holder is a square shaped element that is hollow with an open bottom, wherein the mop is received within the hollow portion of the holder (figure 2). The hollow portion reads on the claim limitation of an inverted channel. There are no claim limitations further describing the channel (e.g. shape, size) and therefore, any type of channel reads on the claim. The holder further comprises recesses (portions located on both sides of element 18 as designated by reference number 58) in which the cleaning implement is received. The recesses extend along the longitudinal extent of the channel. The longitudinal extent of the channel is along the longitudinal axis of the holder.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 1744

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shay L. Karls whose telephone number is 571-272-1268. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00-4:30 M-Th, alternating F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gladys Corcoran can be reached on 571-272-1214. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Slk
1/11/07



GLADYS J.P. CORCORAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER